

## Chains for Forklifts

Forklift Chain - The life of the lift truck lift chains can be prolonged with proper maintenance and care. Lubricating properly is actually a great method so as to prolong the capability of this forklift part. It is really vital to apply oil every so often using a brush or other lube application device. The frequency and volume of oil application should be adequate to be able to stop whichever rust discoloration of oil in the joints. This reddish brown discoloration generally signals that the lift chains have not been correctly lubricated. If this situation has happened, it is very imperative to lubricate the lift chains right away.

It is typical for some metal to metal contact to happen during lift chain operation. This could lead to components to wear out sooner or later. The industry standard considers a lift chain to be worn out if three percent elongation has happened. So as to stop the scary possibility of a catastrophic lift chain failure from occurring, the maker greatly suggests that the lift chain be replaced before it reaches 3 percent elongation. The lift chain gets longer due to progressive joint wear that elongates the chain pitch. This elongation could be measured by placing a certain number of pitches under tension.

Another factor to ensuring good lift chain maintenance is to check the clevis pins on the lift chain for signs of wear and tear. The lift chains have been assembled so that the tapered faces of the clevis pin are lined up. Normally, rotation of the clevis pins is commonly caused by shock loading. Shock loading happens when the chain is loose and then all of a sudden a load is applied. This causes the chain to experience a shock as it 'snaps' under the load tension. Without the correct lubrication, in this particular situation, the pins could rotate in the chain's link. If this scenario takes place, the lift chains should be replaced at once. It is essential to always replace the lift chains in pairs to ensure even wear.